

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The claims now pending in the application are claims 1-22, with claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 20 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the original application, as filed. No new matter has been added.

Initially, the Office Action notes that should claims 2 and 8 be found allowable, claims 3 and 9 would be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75, as being substantial duplicates. Applicants traverse this objection inasmuch as claims 3 and 9 recite features not recited in claims 2 and 8, and vice versa. For example, claims 3 and 9 recite “invalidating setting of the saving state when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium, and the layout paper printing setting is set off.” At least these features are not recited in claims 2 and 8. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,749,024 (Young), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,498 (Shima et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,442,732 (Matysek et al.). Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 11 also stand rejected under Section 103, as unpatentable over the combination of Young, Shima et al., and Matysek et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,282,050 (Ishizuka et al.). Applicants traverse these rejections.

In aspects of Applicants’ invention, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 each feature, *inter alia*, setting a separation printing setting and a printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page based on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver.

In other aspects of the invention, independent claims 14, 17, and 20 each feature, *inter alia*, remotely setting printing settings including whether a plurality of different media are to be output for each page of data and which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be formed using a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver before a printing operation, and are remotely set with respect to individual print jobs.

Applicants submit that at least these features are not taught or suggested by Young, Shima et al., and Matysek et al., whether those patents are taken alone or in combination.

Young relates to a printing system for printing transparency sheets with sheets of paper interleaved therebetween. The Office Action concedes that Young does not teach at least setting a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job based on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, and 13; and remotely setting printing settings using a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver, as recited in independent claims 14, 17, and 20.

Applicants submit that Shima et al., and Matysek et al., also fail to teach or suggest at least these features.

Shima et al. relates to an image information print system and method, and discusses preparing bit map image data from intermediate print information in an order depending upon whether a face-up feeding or a face-down feeding is set. Shima et al. also discloses that such paper feed settings can be set via a user interface of a printer driver or an operation panel of a printer.

Matysek et al. relates to a print folder application for electronic reprographic systems and is understood to teach that a user interface 52 touchscreen 62 may be used to print a presentation set of copies including a single set of transparency copies for all jobs in

a print folder (with the option of interleaving blank or imaged plain paper copies between transparencies). Applicants understand the user interface 52, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, to be provided as a part of the copier, not as part of a printer driver.

Accordingly, nowhere are Shima et al. and Matysek et al. understood to teach or suggest using a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver to 1) set a separation printing setting and a separation printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page for a print job, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, and 13, and 2) remotely set printing settings including whether a plurality of different media are to be output for each page of data and which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be performed, as recited in independent claims 14, 17, and 20.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 17, and 20 recite features that patentably define over Young, Shima et al., and Matysek et al., whether those patents are taken alone or in combination. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims are requested.

In further aspects of the invention, independent claims 2 and 8 feature, *inter alia*, setting a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job based on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface, checking whether a printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output, and invalidating setting of the saving state when a setting of additionally outputting a predetermined medium is detected and setting of the saving state is detected.

In still further aspects of the invention, claims 3 and 9 feature, *inter alia*, setting a separation printing setting, a layout paper printing setting, and a printing order setting for a print job based on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface, checking whether a printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output, and invalidating setting of the saving state when a separation

printing setting is set to additionally output a predetermined media and a layout paper printing setting is set off.

Applicants submit that at least these features are not taught or suggested by Young, Shima et al., Matysek et al., and Ishizuka et al., whether those patents are taken alone or in combination.

Specifically, the Office Action concedes that the proposed combination of Young, Shima et al., and Matysek et al. does not teach or suggest the saving state check step/means or the saving function invalidating step/means of claims 2, 3, 8, and 9. However, the Office Action asserts that Ishizuka et al. teaches such features. Applicants disagree.

Ishizuka et al. relates to a dual-side recording apparatus. Column 5, lines 49-54, of that patent discusses an operation in which pages are determined to be ineffective pages if a counted number of changed pixels of image data is smaller than a predetermined value, and ineffective pages are not recorded. Ishizuka et al. is only understood, however, to teach turning this operation on or off. Nowhere does that patent teach or suggest 1) checking whether a printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output, and invalidating setting of the saving state when a setting of additionally outputting a predetermined medium is detected and setting of the saving state is detected, as recited in independent claims 2 and 8, or 2) checking whether a printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output, and invalidating setting of the saving state when a separation printing setting is set to additionally output a predetermined media and a layout paper printing setting is set off, as recited in independent claims 3 and 9.

Applicants also submit that the proposed combination also does not teach or suggest at least 1) setting a separation printing setting and a printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page based

on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface, as recited in independent claims 2 and 8, or 2) setting a separation printing setting, a layout paper printing setting, and a printing order setting for a print job based on a user input to a paper feed setting screen of a graphical user interface, as recited in independent claims 3 and 9.

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 recite features that patentably define over Young, Shima et al., Matysek et al., and Ishizuka et al., whether those patents are taken alone or in combination. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims are requested.

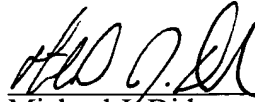
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 20 are patentable over the cited patents, whether those patents are taken alone or in combination. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of those claims are respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims, and are believed allowable by virtue of that dependency, and for reciting other patentable features of the invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims are requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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